

WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

September 11, 2014

Safety Message: In The Clear



This photograph was taken at the funeral service of a 26-year-old logger who was struck by a tail lift tree as it fell to the ground.

Logging is classified as one of the most dangerous professions. Not only is it challenging, but it also takes place in a changing environment. One thing that can be done to reduce accidents in the logging industry is to ensure that before giving the signal to “go ahead” on the turn, all employees must be “in the clear,” and they must stay in the clear until all rigging movement has stopped. Employees must move away from the turn so as to be above or behind the turn and in the clear.

Note: You are not in the clear unless you are out of the swing radius of the longest log in the turn. This means the total length of the log, the choker, and the drop line to include any line deflection that could occur. An additional safety factor of a few steps beyond the potential swing radius is highly recommended. If you are not sure where the ends of the logs are located or how other logs or debris could move, the crew should be at least 40 feet beyond the potential swing radius of the longest log.

Remember . . . it takes only a second and you could be the next logger to ride in a hearse.